

# MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH ACT

## HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Medical Marijuana Research Act. This legislation would remove barriers for research into cannabis and facilitate access to an increased supply of higher quality medical grade cannabis for research purposes.

The cannabis laws in this country are broken, including our laws that govern cannabis research. Because cannabis is a Schedule I substance, researchers must jump through hoops and comply with onerous requirements just to do basic research on the medical potential of the plant.

The Medical Marijuana Research Act amends the Controlled Substances Act to establish a new, separate registration process, specific for marijuana. The bill would both streamline the often-duplicative licensure process for researchers seeking to conduct cannabis research and facilitate access to an increased supply of higher quality medical grade cannabis for research purposes.

The Medical Marijuana Research Act will ensure that research on cannabis and other potentially beneficial marijuana-derived substances is based on sound science and reduce the regulatory barriers associated with marijuana research. The legislation requires the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to license outside of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to ensure that there is an adequate supply of cannabis product to study. The legislation also shortens timelines, reduces unnecessary security measures, and streamlines approval for researchers.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and enable research into the medical impacts from using cannabis so Americans have adequate access to potentially transformative medicines and treatments.

# CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO MEDICAL GROUP

## HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Buffalo Medical Group, one of the oldest and largest physician-driven group practices in New York State. This year it will be celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Buffalo Medical Group was founded in 1946, the year after World War II ended. Inspired by the new model of group physician practice they had experienced during the war, practices in that model were resumed by the organization's visionary founders, Drs. Ramsdell Gurney, Murray S. Howland, Jr., George F. Koepf, and Frank Meyers.

The organization has flourished and now records more than 850,000 outpatient visits annually throughout its locations. Built from a 75-year-old desire to provide the best possible

health care, Buffalo Medical Group continues to provide innovative patient care today.

Buffalo Medical Group employs not only more than 200 primary care, specialist, subspecialist physicians and advanced practitioners but also over 800 other health care professionals. The organization serves the people of Western New York from a number of locations, including four main locations and seven office satellites.

Buffalo Medical Group operates in a number of medical spheres, including but not limited to family medicine, cancer care, and vascular surgery. The organization also provides a number of support services for the people of Western New York, such as physical therapy, radiation services, and pharmacy services. The organization ensures that the people of Western New York have access to a plethora of medical resources.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to honor Buffalo Medical Group, an organization that has operated in and for Western New York for 75 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone.

# HONORING JAMES P. BURIK

## HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Naval Air Crewman 1st Class James "Jimmy" P. Burik, who died on August 31, 2021, at the age of 31.

Mr. Burik, of Salem, Virginia, was one of the five sailors that lost their lives when an MH-60S helicopter embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln*, crashed into the sea off the coast of southern California. At the time of the crash, the helicopter was conducting what the Navy described as "routine flight operations."

Mr. Burik was born on May 9, 1990, to Jim and Carol Burik in Salem. He graduated from Salem High School in 2008 and from Roanoke College in 2012. He joined the Navy in 2017 and served as a rescue swimmer assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Eight. He deployed aboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* for two consecutive tours before departing for the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

Last year, Mr. Burik was honored for rescuing a man caught in a rip current off Guam's Gun Beach. Though coral reefs surround the island, and the gentleman was weak from exhaustion, Mr. Burik was still able to pull him from the current and bring him safely to shore. He was off duty at the time of the rescue and earned the Navy Commendation Medal for his selflessness and bravery.

Mr. Burik's thoughtful character far exceeded the parameters of his job. He always went out of his way to help those in need and go the extra mile that others weren't willing to do. He was a charismatic and caring man. He valued his friends and time spent with his wife and son. He was esteemed as a hero. I offer my gratitude for his work and sacrifice for our great country. His selfless service will not be forgotten.

His wife, Megan, is starting the AWS1 James Burik Foundation to continue honoring his legacy. The foundation will seek to improve financial shortcomings for Gold Star families with small children.

Mr. Burik is survived by his wife, Megan, and young son, Caulder, as well as his parents, Jim and Carol Burik, his sister, Laura, and brother-in-law, Erik Zickefoose. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

# RECOGNIZING FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT DANIA BAZZI, MICHIGAN'S 2022 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

## HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ferndale Public Schools Superintendent Dania Bazzi, named by the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators as Michigan's 2022 Superintendent of the Year.

Since joining Ferndale Public Schools in 2017, and especially during the unprecedented 2020–2021 school year, Dr. Bazzi has demonstrated exemplary dedication to students, educators and the Ferndale community at large. Under her direction, Ferndale Public Schools has received awards for equity, innovation, and leadership. Dr. Bazzi is known for placing students and education professionals at the center of every decision, and for taking a systematic approach to uplift the needs of all students. She is making a remarkable impact on the Ferndale Schools community and is a major asset to public education in Michigan.

It is gratifying to know that the hard-working and diverse Ferndale Schools community—all 3,000 students and the talented and caring education professionals who help them to "Fly High"—are in the very capable hands of Dr. Dania Bazzi. I am truly proud to have the honor of recognizing Dr. Bazzi for being named Michigan's 2022 Superintendent of the Year, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and the entire Ferndale Public Schools community for this impressive achievement.

# HONORING CALDWELL DURHAM

## HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 21, 2021*

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I wish to dedicate some time today to commemorate the 100th birthday of Caldwell Durham. Born in Raymond, Mississippi, more than two decades before Brown v. Board of Education, there was no guarantee that Caldwell Durham (Electrical Engineer Class of 1951 at IIT) or his brothers and sisters would have access to an education. If it were not for the courage and idealism of his parents, Chaney and Curtis Durham, Caldwell might have had a very different life.

At 100, he has worked tenaciously while enjoying a successful, barrier-breaking career as an aerospace engineer. He married the love of his life, Burnette Short Durham, and together they raised three children. He has four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, cousins and in-laws. He stays in